

TALK WITH A BOARD MEMBER DAY

Public Comment  
Georgia Van Dam  
6/21/17 Board Meeting  
(Special)

Board Policy 2740: Item D

"The Board...recognizes that study sessions with staff, faculty, and members of the public are a useful way to examine new developments and/or critical issues. Successful implementation of new developments and/or the resolution of issues are assured with the 'buy-in' and added insights of participatory decision-making."

--participatory decision-making.

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The Board solicits input from campus groups, but not everyone belongs to a group. Adjunct faculty have no group to speak for them. You need a way to get in touch with all people on the campus, not just some people.

Of course, we can come to these meetings and speak during "Public Comments," but that's not always possible -- AND it's not "participatory" two-way communication.

Have you ever wanted to play tennis but couldn't find a partner, so you end up hitting balls against a backboard? That's what standing here talking to you feels like. There's no give-and-take. I send the ball towards you, and it bounces back dead.

That's why I've come up with an idea we can use to improve communication. Designate one day in every month of the school year as "TALK WITH A BOARD MEMBER DAY."

Stagger the days: in September, make it Monday. October—Tuesday, and so on. Alter the time: mornings one month, afternoons the next. That way, during the school year, everyone who wants to talk with you will be able to do so, and you can reply.

Another way to improve communication might be for a Board Member to periodically attend a Division Meeting. Stay a while and talk with the faculty.

I urge you to take down the backboard and get out on the court and Play Ball!

Ask everyone on campus to play – maybe even students.

It's a game that WE ALL can win --- together.